

# Captured Notes Prove Constantine Plotted With Kaiser

## Greek King's Duplicity Was Shown in Records

By William L. McPherson

IN LUCERNE, before starting back for Greece, Constantine made this statement, intended chiefly for circulation in the United States:

"That I am badly disposed toward the Allies, or ever have been, is ridiculous. I have never been pro-German, nor was I well disposed toward Germany in the war."

Such an artless perversion of the facts would be laughed at in Europe, where Constantine's war policy is well understood. But a clever pro-Constantine propaganda has been maintained in this country ever since the armistice. Constantine's persistent hostility to the Allied cause has been misrepresented here as a patriotic attempt to preserve Greek neutrality.

### Records Against Him

The main trouble with this fiction is that it clashes with a thoroughly documented record. When Constantine said that he was never badly disposed to the Allies and was never well disposed toward Germany he outlined what Greece's policy ought to have been—but was not. For many reasons Greece should have been pro-Entente and anti-German. In the Balkan wars she had fought Turkey and then Bulgaria. These two countries were her natural enemies. Turkey had been her oppressor for centuries. Bulgaria was a more recent, but equally brutal, rival and had treated the Greek population of Macedonia and Thrace with ruthless savagery. Constantine had allowed himself to be glorified as "the Bulgarian killer." As late as June 25, 1913, he ordered his Minister of Foreign Affairs to protest to the civilized world against the conduct of "these monsters with human faces," adding:

"The acts of the Bulgarians have made all the atrocities of past barbarian invasions fade into insignificance. They prove that the Bulgarians no longer have the right to be included among civilized peoples."

### An Ally of Serbia

At the end of the Balkan wars Greece made a treaty of alliance with Serbia. It provided, among other things, that each country should go to the aid of the other in case of attack by a third power. Serbia was attacked in July, 1914, by Austria-Hungary. But Greece didn't fulfill the treaty compact. Serbia overlooked this failure because she had other powerful allies and felt that she might be able to hold her own against the Teutonic powers if Bulgaria also didn't attack her. She was satisfied to have Greece remain neutral, so long as Bulgaria also was neutral.

In her conflict with Turkey Greece had the moral support of the Entente powers. Germany favored Turkey and took the latter's side in the conferences of the great powers in which territorial settlements were discussed. Moreover, Greece was by treaty under the guardianship of France, Great Britain and Russia, which had created and supported the modern Greek state. And as a maritime nation her interests were bound up with those of controlling sea powers.

Political and economic considerations, therefore, inclined Greece to side with the Entente, the more so since Turkey soon joined the Teutonic alliance and Bulgarian policy clearly pointed in the same direction. But as early as March 13, 1915, Minister Streit, one of Constantine's most trusted counselors, had drawn up a secret memorandum which advised that Greece should do nothing at all until after Bulgaria had acted. It reduced almost to the vanishing point the possible advantages of cooperation with the Entente, even in case Bulgaria should side with Germany.

### Poor Allied Diplomacy

The folly of Allied diplomacy in the Balkans in 1914 and 1915 enabled Constantine to camouflage his attitude for a long period. The French and British governments were victimized by his duplicity, just as they were by the duplicity of Ferdinand of Bulgaria. Constantine said the other day in Switzerland that he had offered five times to intervene on the Allied side. These offers were either apocryphal or they had strings to them. Thus in March, 1915, Great Britain, France and Russia, intending to make a campaign for Constantinople, asked Greece to cooperate. Venizelos, then Prime Minister, strongly favored the proposition. But the King stopped the negotiations and Venizelos resigned.

In April, 1915, the Gounaris Cabinet replied to a second Entente request for aid by prescribing conditions which the Allied governments were unable to concede. In the first half of 1915 Constantine's belief in German victory may have wavered a little and he may have felt it wise to encourage Allied expectations.



A RECENT photograph of Constantine of Greece

But after the Entente diplomats had blunderingly pressed Venizelos, who was returned to power in the June elections, to sacrifice Greek territory in order to win over Bulgaria, Constantine felt that the time had come to drop the mask. The Russians were being driven out of Galicia and Poland. British operations at Gallipoli had come to a standstill. Germany's stock rose, and Constantine determined to adhere to his original purpose not to be drawn into war against the Central Empires.

He couldn't prevent the landing of the Allied expedition at Salonica. He couldn't get rid of the Allied armies after they settled in the Salonica entrenched camp. He was forced to yield to many unwelcome Allied demands. But down to the day of his belated expulsion he never yielded except to compulsion and he never meant to carry out his engagements in good faith. His feeling toward the Allies was adequately set forth in this sentence from the telegram of congratulation which he and the Queen sent the Kaiser on the latter's birthday, January 13, 1917:

### Wished Kaiser Victory

"May God soon give you a glorious victory over all your infamous enemies."

Now as to Constantine's claim that he was "never pro-German nor well disposed toward Germany in the war." His own words and actions prove exactly the contrary. After Great Britain declared war on Germany the Kaiser telegraphed Constantine giving various reasons why Greece should side with him. The King replied, through the Greek Minister in Berlin:

"The Emperor knows that my personal sympathies and political opinions draw me toward him and I shall never forget that it is to him that we owe Kavala. After mature consideration, however, I fail to understand how I could serve his purpose by the immediate mobilization of my army. The Anglo-French fleets rule the Mediterranean and would destroy our warships and merchant navy. They would occupy our islands and would prevent the concentration of my army, which can only be effected by sea, there being no railways. Without being able to render him any service we would disappear from the map."

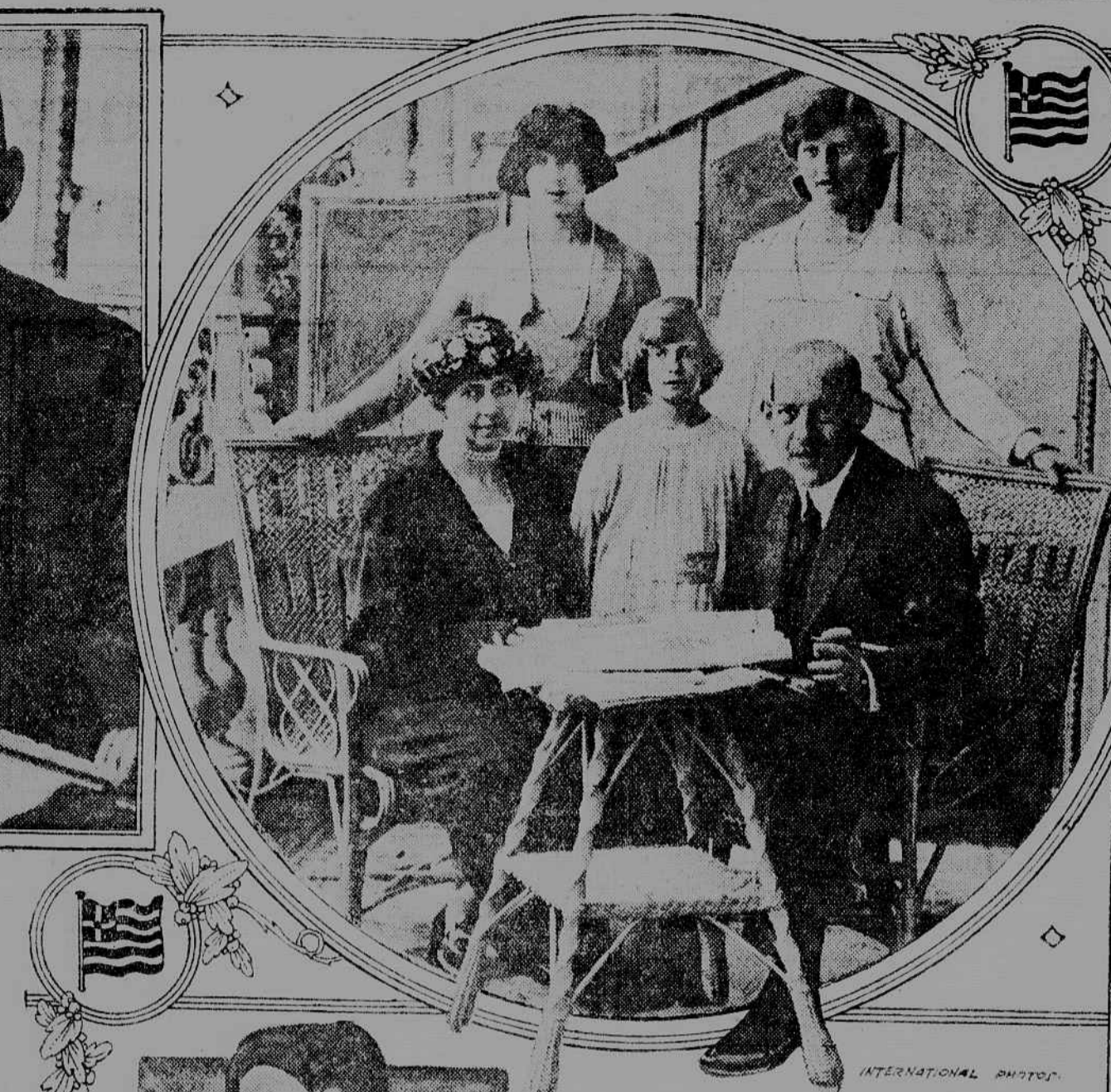
"Consequently I am of opinion that circumstances impose on us neutrality, which can be profitable to him, considering that I engage not to harm his friends and my neighbors, so long as they do not harm our Balkan interests."

Who were the Kaiser's "friends" and the King's "neighbors" here alluded to? Turkey and Bulgaria, of course. In reply to this message the Greek Minister in Berlin telegraphed:

"Von Jagow has told me that he thinks the Emperor will understand the necessity, expressed by your majesty, of maintaining neutrality for the present. Von Jagow repeated to me the advice he had formerly given, to come as speedily as possible to an understanding with Sofia and Constantinople, adding that Serbia [Greece's ally] to-day constituted the 'skin of the bear.'"

### The Bulgarian Agreement

Undoubtedly, the basis of an understanding with Bulgaria was laid long before the latter entered the war. Venizelos was allowed to tell the Allies that a Bulgarian attack on Serbia would compel Greece to intervene on Serbia's behalf, as the treaty of alliance required. But Constantine thought differently. Messages sent to Sofia by the Bulgarian Minister in Athens, discovered and decoded in 1918, show that Constantine had informed Bulgaria



CONSTANTINE, his wife and their daughters photographed in their hotel in Lucerne



THE QUEEN MOTHER OF GREECE, who accepted the regency in the absence of "my beloved son, Constantine"

that he would not interfere in a war between Bulgaria and Serbia. He had also warned Rumania to the same effect. In these telegrams, dated September 23 and 24, 1915, M. Passaroff, the Bulgarian envoy, reported Constantine as saying:

"I hold that when you go to occupy Serbian Macedonia we have no reasons to intervene. . . . We cannot oppose such a course, for we should have to declare war for foreign territory. We are going to act now with Austria and Germany. It would therefore be suicide, if, in opposing you, we were to declare war against two great powers. I do not agree to the proposal of M. Venizelos that we should oppose you with our troops and with those of the Entente, for if the Entente has plenty of troops it will send them against the Dardanelles, and not against Bulgaria. I beg you to declare to your Czar that in your action against Serbia you will have no opposition from our side. We shall not shed our blood against you and against Germany to save Serbia."

Passaroff's dispatch went direct to Ferdinand, and not to the Bulgarian Foreign Office. The writer said also that Constantine had asked his help in "getting rid of Venizelos."

### Venizelos Dismissed

Venizelos was dismissed as Prime Minister shortly afterward and Constantine set up a personal government. The presence of Sarraïl's army in Macedonia prevented him from joining the Teutonic alliance. Later, the establishment of the Venizelos provisional government seriously handicapped him. But he always kept in view the possibility of military cooperation with the Germans. A Greek White Book, published by the Venizelos government, containing decoded cipher messages passing between Athens and Berlin and other diplomatic documents, reveals in a startling manner Constantine's pro-German affiliations. The first radio telegrams deal with his appeal for a loan of 40,000,000 marks—in December, 1915. Berlin cheerfully gave him this credit, but

### More Comedy

The same comedy was staged when the Bulgarians and Germans overran the Drama-Kavala district, in August, 1916. The Greek officers in the field were left in ignorance of the true situation. Only when the Teutonic operation had gone too far to be stopped were they informed that Kavala and the whole region were to be surrendered, "under assurances." The Central powers thus came into possession of 200 cannon, 50,000 rifles and large stocks of am-

munition. Constantine apparently feared that these might fall into the hands of the Venizelists. He preferred to turn them over, with a division of Greek soldiers, to German safekeeping.

### In Ludendorff's Own Story this version of the incident is given:

"The district east of the Struma was occupied on August 27 without serious fighting, as the Greek Fourth Army Corps, stationed there, offered no resistance and quietly looked on as the Bulgarian troops marched past. This corps remained in the neighborhood of Drama and Kavala. The German general headquarters immediately ordered our liaison officer to take charge of these troops. They soon placed themselves at our disposal and, with their consent, were taken to Gornitz for internment there."

Constantine's truculence toward the Allies increased after Mackensen's victories in the Dobrudja and Rumania. The Allied forces in Macedonia had been able only to push as far north as Monastir. The

King kept urging a German-Bulgarian drive against Salonica.

### Theotaky to Sophie

Theotaky, Greek Minister in Berlin, telegraphed on December 6, 1916, to Queen Sophie:

"The German military attaché in Athens" returned yesterday evening from the headquarters where he saw the Emperor and explained to him the situation; he carried away from the interview very good impressions. He will leave in ten days for western Macedonia, near Lake Prespa, in order to reestablish communications. It is necessary to advise Matas and Manos to develop, as soon as possible, the question of bands. Falkenhayn has been assured of aid and support in this matter on the part of the General Staff."

These "bands" were guerrillas, intended to make trouble on Sarraïl's left flank and in his rear. The Constantinists in Athens had meanwhile, on December 1 and 2, 1916, treacherously attacked small Allied detachments landed there, and the Allied fleet had fired a few shots

into the city by way of reprisal. Queen Sophie telegraphed her brother, William, on December 6:

"By a miracle we are safe after a three hours' bombardment of the palace by the French fleet, which fired without warning. The shells exploded very near us. We took refuge in the cellars. Serious engagements also took place next day in the streets; the revolutionaries fired from the houses. The army and the people fought in a magnificent manner and behaved bravely. The page has been turned. It was a great victory against four great powers, whose troops fled from the Greeks and who later retreated under the escort of Greek troops. . . . Please inform us when the army in Macedonia will be sufficiently reinforced in order to take the definite offensive. Many greetings. I think of you."

### Kaiser Urged Revolt

The Kaiser replied under date of December 16 in his best manner:

"I am deeply grateful to you for your dispatch, which I have read with profound emotion. I have seen the danger through which you and Tino have passed and I admire the

## Hope for German Victory His Constant Theme

courage with which you have resisted during those difficult moments. "The Entente has again shown its aim. There is, therefore, naturally, no other course open to Tino but to revolt openly against his executioners. The intervention of Tino with his principal forces, operating against the west wing of Sarraïl will bring the decision of Macedonia. The operations in Rumania have been crowned with the capture of Bucharest. Much has thereby been gained. Up to the present God has helped. He will also be with you in the future and will help you, too. Hearty greetings and best wishes. I am thinking constantly of you and Tino."

On December 17 J. Theotaky, master of ceremonies at the court of Queen Sophie, telegraphed his relative, the Greek Minister at Berlin:

"Tell Falkenhayn [former Governor General of Belgium] to proceed to Pogradec in order to give the necessary impetus to the question of the bands, and please send word at once by telegram of the date of his arrival there. Caravitis will receive instructions; he will go to Falkenhayn in order to come to an understanding as to the operations. It will be necessary to have, to begin with, 5,000 rifles and 300 cartridges for each rifle; six machine guns and mountain guns with ammunition, and 500,000 francs a month for 5,000 men. All this ought to be available at Pogradec, as well as provisions. An action by regular forces in the district of Korytza would give strong support to the development of the bands."

### Sophie Blames Allies

Queen Sophie sent this dispatch to the Kaiser on December 26, 1916:

"The situation is not as yet cleared and there is continual tension and excitement. The Allies continually support the insurgents and urge them to take possession of parts of the kingdom which, owing to their proximity to the sea, cannot be defended by us; thus they have occupied by force the Cyclades. Further, by a strict blockade, they are trying to rouse the people against us and to convince them that the evils of a war against the Central Empires would be less hard than the empire of violence, of hunger and of terror that the Allies and the insurgents are imposing on them."

"The issue that you advise would be the only one possible if Sarraïl, attacked by you, should be obliged to retreat, in which case his left wing would penetrate close to the parts of Greece occupied by us. As things are now, since the distance separating this wing from us is very great, the line of our communications would be too much exposed and our stocks of food and munitions would not be sufficient for a long struggle. Under these circumstances a decisive and prompt attack on your part, if it is possible, would give to Greece, militarily, the opportunity to intervene and would mean for us deliverance from the horrible situation in which we are."

Queen Sophie writes with the acumen of a strategist. She might easily claim to be the leading strategist of the House of Hohenzollern in its last days. She begged again, on December 31, for a decision, saying: "It is absolutely necessary that we should know whether or not the offensive on the Macedonian front will begin and when, in order that we may arrange our plans accordingly."

### "Game Is Lost"

The Entente took steps on that day to immobilize the Royalist forces, demanding the withdrawal of all those in Thessaly and Euboea. Sophie telegraphed despairingly on January 2 to Falkenhayn:

"Owing to the continuation of the blockade we have bread for only a few days; other food supplies are diminishing. War against the Entente is therefore now out of the question. Negotiations as to the note [the new Entente demands] are under way. I consider the game is lost. If the attack does not take place immediately it will be too late afterward."

Hindenburg wouldn't go to Greece's rescue. But he hated to have Greece's artillery fall into the hands of the Allies. He asked Constantine to promise to destroy it. The German government engaged to make compensation. On January 20, 1917, Constantine accepted this proposal, covering all the guns and stores in the Peloponnese. The last communication of importance in the decoded series was sent on January 26, 1917. It was a birthday message from the royal couple to the Kaiser, reading as follows:

"We send you from the bottom of our heart cordial wishes for your birthday. We follow with admiration the great events by land and sea. May God soon give you a glorious victory over all your infamous enemies! They have honored us by the landing of forty Senegalese soldiers to guard the location of France. A charming picture of civilization! Affectionate greetings."

"TINO, SOPHIE"

Such is the record of the pro-German, ally-hating royal house of Greece! Yet Constantine still has the effrontery to say that he was never pro-German and never well disposed toward Germany at any stage of the war!

## The Care of Famous Buildings

THE life of a great building is only kept in a state of complete and telling health by an incessant expenditure of care and skill and money. First one fine aspect of its personality and then, sometimes with embarrassment, another threatens to vanish utterly. The care of historic buildings is thus a succession of crises. Such a crisis, writes "A. V. C." in The Manchester Guardian, in the condition of York Minster has been precipitated by the discovery that the stained glass work must be restored and this happens to be a case in which the need is at once urgent and costly. It involves the largest collection of medieval stained glass in England—one of the most precious of the material possessions which the Church has inherited from the Middle Ages. There is danger that unless the public imagination is stirred sufficiently by the appeal which is shortly to be made this collection will slowly perish.

It is unlikely that the nation will let this happen. Considered merely as a collection of stained glass work, as an integral part of the history of medieval art, it is one of the national treasures which the nation will not be inclined to question. One prefers not to regard these works as a collection but as a part of the personality of the Minster. York Minster without its stained glass windows would be a still powerful personality out of which, abruptly, all the heat of youth had gone. Only the rather chill perfection of form would remain. Although the Minster is rich in heraldic devices there is nothing to supply the touch of warmth which would cease to be felt if the windows were filled with clear glass. Worshippers who have come to regard that perfection of form as in some way heightened by the rich colors of the ancient windows would be confronted when they went into the Minster with a changed personality. The moldings of rolls and hollows would then be the main di-

visions in a vast monochrome; the general effect would take on a new bleakness, and the magnesian limestone of which the Minster is built begin to look like stone and nothing more. For a stone interior, however nobly it may be planned, when exposed unreservedly to the common light of day, like the nave of Salisbury and great parts of most other English cathedrals, seems hard and unromantic in the eyes of those who look beyond outlines for color. It was with a sound sense of values as understood by this kind of beholder that the medieval builder who worked so monumentally in cold stone allowed his work to be warmed with patterns of bright color.

Detached from the personality of the Minster, taken elsewhere and taking with them their power of shedding dim lights onto cold vaults of space, of warming and enriching the atmosphere, this glass would still appeal impressively to all who care for the store of history and the preservation of a particular, emphatically Christian art. The "Five Sisters" window is the chief treasure of the collection. It was in front of this window that Stonewall Jackson stood for two hours, saying as he turned away: "Now I have seen the best of Europe." The window succeeds in looking less like glass than like tapestry, so flexible seem the patterns on each of the five long strips and so finely do all the forms and colors intermix. Its beauty has excited wonder and myth and legend, but the idea which clings most firmly is that five maiden sisters first worked the pattern in tapestry. It is an almost complete specimen of early English glass, but at the foot of the central light a panel of Norman glass occurs. The subject on the panel is indistinct, but it has been suggested that originally the glass formed part of a window in the old Norman transept. For some obscure reason it was preserved and honorably incorporated in the great design. Not infrequently, it may be noticed, pieces of one window

have unaccountably got into another. The keen student may light on whole groups of figures which have no sort of connection with their surroundings, and may discover under a decorated canopy a single figure standing out in a window of definitely perpendicular tracery. The "Five Sisters" window as a whole has not the superficial kind of beauty which leaps out and impresses every casual beholder, and many visitors who have no hint beforehand pass it by for the great east window, which happens to be 72 feet high and 31 feet broad and to burn above the altar in blue and red. It is filled entirely with old glass, and, besides its broad spectacular effect, is a mine of instruction for the artist or the designer or the craftsman of the present day. The great rose window over the south entrance still holds much old glass, and, indeed, in the whole Minster there is a surface of glass on which the expert eye of the craftsman in stained glass can detect specimens of every school, some windows even now complete and some a patchwork of styles, but all an unrivaled glory of color.

To make these treasures safe for this generation the sum of £50,000 is necessary. A walk down any of the aisles will reveal to the casual visitor the perforations which are sprinkled over the windows, and especially over those in the clerestory. The money is needed to remove a long incrustation of dirt, to straighten the leads which have crumpled and allowed the glass to bend unevenly outward, and to fill up the gaps with glass more or less in tone with the surrounding color. No attempt is made in the process of restoration to fill in the figures on the glass. Where a line has been obliterated by a fall of glass the subject is left uncompleted, and the aim of the restorers is to prevent more glass from falling by renewing the leads and to stop unsightly gaps with glass that will give the lights a harmony they are now in many instances beginning to lose.